AMENDMENT

In the Claims

1-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn) A method to prepare a modified nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding at least a first and second module of a modular PKS, wherein said first module is immediately N-terminal to said second module and wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a mutation such that the catalytic domain of the ketosynthase of the first module of said encoded PKS is inactivated, said encoding nucleotide sequence operably linked o control sequences for its expression,

which method comprises effecting said mutation in said nucleic acid molecule.

19. (currently amended) A method to prepare an erythromycin derivative ~~antibiotic~~ which method comprises adding ~~a heterologous and recombinantly produced macrolactone polyketide other than 6-deoxyethronolide B (6-dEB)~~ to the culture medium of a strain of *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* a 6-dEB derivative produced in a recombinant organism other than *Saccharopolyspora erythrae* [[;]] and culturing said *S. erythraea* in said medium so as to convert said 6-dEB derivative into an erythromycin derivative ~~macrolactone polyketide into an antibiotic~~; and

extracting the erythromycin derivative ~~antibiotic~~ from the medium.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 [[23]] wherein said 6-dEB derivative ~~14-member macrolactone polyketide~~ is 14-propyl 6-dEB 15 methyl 6-dEB (Formula 6 as depicted in Figure 3), or 14-desmethyl-14-phenyl 6-dEB (Formula 7 as depicted in Figure 3).